

AL LAWSON
5TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1406 LONGWORTH OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0123
(202) 225-2256 - FAX

CITY HALL
117 W. DUVAL STREET
SUITE 240
(904) 354-1652
(904) 379-0309

435 MACOMB STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202
(850) 558-9450
(850) 577-0633 - FAX

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April 22, 2021

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.,
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

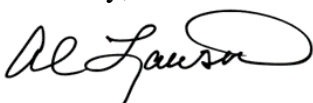
Dear Chair and Ranking Member,

I am requesting funding for UF/IFAS 4-H Prepares Floridians for the Workforce program in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is University of Florida, located at 226 Tigert Hall P.O. Box 113150, Gainesville, FL 32611-3150.

The funding would be used to provide a funding level of \$1,500,000 to the UF/IFAS 4-H Prepares Floridians for the Workforce program located at the Cherry Lake 4-H Center in Madison County, Florida through the Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grant. This project would be a valuable use of taxpayers funds because in Florida's Fifth Congressional District five of our eight counties have unemployment rates higher than the state average of 4.8%, this includes Gadsden, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, and Columbia County. The training through this project will include collaborations with Florida's Farm Bureau's Agriculture Education Services and Technology Inc. (AEST) certification program. AEST was developed to answer a need within the agricultural industry-driven assessments of the agriculture career fields. Each certificate reflects the skills and competencies necessary for success in a particular field. This one-time investment for the facilities at Camp Cherry Lake 4-H Center will create the necessary infrastructure for greenhouses, an aquaculture lab, and a citrus grove to allow for hands-on learning and practical experience. Many of these facilities and resources are not available to students in North Florida and are a critical to assure equitable workforce preparation and opportunities in the community.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Al Lawson
Member of Congress